



# Department Updates

Barron County

May / June 2011

## Circuit Court

### Hon. James Babler

The Barron County Circuit Court is the recipient of a Federal Grant in the amount of \$35,362.00 to plan a Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. The Grant, administered by the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance, is awarded to Wisconsin Counties which are developing collaborative teams to problem solve around justice system and public safety issues in the community.

Coordinating Councils provide the necessary foundation for communities to fully assess the needs of the local criminal justice system and develop programs and practices in response to these needs. The Council is chaired by a judge. The judge plays a critical role by convening the

appropriate justice system leaders and offering a unique perspective of the system and its impacts from an objective neutral vantage point.

Circuit Judge James Babler will chair the Council for Barron County. He noted that establishing a Coordinating Council is an exciting opportunity to address issues which cannot be solved by a single agency or organization within the county. "Our ability to bring the various justice system participants together to look at our local problems provides us with an opportunity to share resources and make better use of our time and effort."

Babler said, "With public monies in short supply, this is a

great time to look at 'smart solutions' to a number of criminal justice problems. The Council will pursue data collection, train on effective justice strategies and develop a plan for the future of the Barron County criminal justice system."

The Council will also include District Attorney Angela Beranek, Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald, Clerk of Court Sharon Millermon, County Board Chair Jess Miller, County Administrator Jeff French, Rice Lake Chief of Police John Sommerfeld, Health & Family Services Director Judy Demers, Community Corrections Supervisor Stephannie Schmidt, Public Defender John Hinde, and Restorative Justice Director Ted Lewis.

### Inside this issue:

Health & Human Services	2
ADRC / Aging	2
UW Extension	2
Human Resources	3
County Clerk	3
Register of Deeds	3
Finance	3
Sheriff's Department	4
Administration	4

## Clerk of Court

### Sharon Millermon, Clerk of Court

It never ceases to amaze me the extent of services provided by Barron County departments unbeknown to other departments. The Circuit Court Judges, several years ago, adopted a local Court rule mandating litigants of Small Claims cases to participate in mediation prior to a Court Trial being scheduled if the claim is for money or the return of property. Selected staff members of the Barron County Clerk of Court Office provide such mediating services. As you can see from the statistics below, the end result is very successful resulting in overall approximately only 23.25% of all contested Small Claims cases requiring a Court Trial.

#### MEDIATION STATISTICS

YEAR	SCHEDULED	SETTLED	TRIAL	DISMISS/DEFAULT
2003	121	56 (46.3%)	32 (26.4%)	33 (27.3%)
2004	188	91 (48.4%)	45 (23.9%)	52 (27.7%)
2005	164	83 (50.6%)	39 (23.8%)	42 (25.6%)
2006	179	87 (48.6%)	47 (26.3%)	45 (25.1%)
2007	201	112 (55.7%)	37 (18.4%)	52 (25.9%)
2008	189	90 (47.6%)	47 (24.9%)	52 (27.5%)
2009	206	107 (52%)	44 (21.3%)	55 (26.7%)
2010	199	106 (53%)	42 (21%)	51 (26%)



## Health & Human Services

### Judy Demers, Director

Effective July 1, 2011, non-emergency medical transportation will be arranged by LogistiCare Solutions, LLC. The county will no longer be involved in arranging and authorizing payment for this type of transportation. Medicaid recipients needing this type of transportation will need to contact LogistiCare's toll-free telephone number (1-866-907-1493).

WCHSA (Wisconsin Counties Human Services Association) has drafted an alternative to the legislature's proposal to centralize Income Maintenance functions into the ESC(Enrollment Services Center). The model proposed by WCHSA incorporates a combination of state, county and private sector providers in the service delivery system and proposes the development of 14 consortia in the State for service delivery, thus enhancing collaboration across county boundaries and maximizing human and financial resources. The Call/Change Center function would remain with the

counties, and counties would retain their portion of Community Aids funding that they have allocated to the Income Maintenance function. In Barron County, the amount of Community Aids funding allocated to Income Maintenance is \$179,000. This proposal is projected to save \$37 million in the state budget. It is anticipated that this topic will come before the legislature for a vote in early June.

Secretaries of the Department of Health Services and Department of Children and Families received notification from the USDA, Food and Nutrition Service, that federal funding for the FoodShare program could be jeopardized if the State moves forward with centralization of eligibility determination. Per federal regulations, certification interviews, eligibility determinations, and phone and face-to-face contacts must be completed by public employees. Federal funding in the amount of \$20 million could be at risk if these requirements are not met.

As a result of the notification from USDA that Wisconsin's utilization of private staff for processing of Foodshare eligibility does not meet Food and Nutrition Service(FNS) requirements, the State has revised its proposal for centralization of Income Maintenance functions to the ESC. The new proposal incorporates centralization of the Call/Change Center function; however, application and review processing would remain a function of the counties. One concern with the centralization of the Call/Change Center function that is being voiced by counties is that absence of a local contact will make access for consumers difficult and ineffective if staff receiving the call are not familiar with local resources to which consumers might need referral and from which they could benefit. Another major concern is that under this proposal the State would keep the counties' portion of Community Aids funding that is allocated to the Income Maintenance function--\$179,000 for Barron County.

## Aging & Disability Resource Center / Office on Aging

### Charlene Oftedahl, Director

Senior Farmers Market Vouchers will be distributed this summer to 100 low-income households. Eligible seniors can receive up to \$25 in vouchers to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at farmers markets or roadside stands that accept the vouchers.

Namekagon Transit continues to expand public transportation opportunities throughout Barron County with a new schedule beginning June 1. The "Community Shuttle" bus will provide local

doorstop service within communities on scheduled days of the week. The "Rice Lake Flyer" bus provides rides between communities, ending the route in Rice Lake. AddLIFE project staff in the Office on Aging are available to help seniors learn how to use this new service, and if requested, will even accompany seniors and disabled persons on their first trip.

ADRC/Aging staff join DHHS and several other county departments and community agencies in bringing awareness to the

problem of Elder Abuse. Of the 40 reports of elder abuse investigated by DHHS last year, 42% of the victims were over the age of 80, 78% were female, and 23% had Alzheimer's Disease or other dementia. Sadly over 2/3 of the alleged abusers were spouses, adult children or grandchildren, or other family members. Please help us by encouraging people to report abuse. The identity of reporters will be kept strictly confidential.

## UW Extension

### Tim Jergenson, Agricultural / Natural Resources / Horticultural Agent

Cooperative Extension committee members honored and recognized for 5 years of service.

Jerry McRoberts, Mark Rogstad, and Larry Moen were recognized recently for 5 years of service on the Barron County Extension/Land Conservation Committee.

Jerry, Mark and Larry are examples of the

successful relationship that we in Cooperative Extension have fostered with county board members and county government, according to Richard Klemme, Dean and Director of Cooperative Extension, a division of the University of Wisconsin-Extension. This strong partnership allows us to deliver educational programming to meet the needs of people in Barron County.

County governments work together with Cooperative Extension to provide local

educational programs that address the lifelong learning needs of individuals, families and communities. Wisconsin residents get quick, convenient access to university research and knowledge through Cooperative Extension offices in every county and through staff on University of Wisconsin campuses. Wisconsin Associated County Extension Committees members advise Cooperative Extension about programs and encourage financial support for Cooperative Extension work.

# Human Resources

Rachael Richie, HR Director

<b><u>New/Replacement Positions</u></b>				
<b><u>Position Title</u></b>	<b><u>Office/Department</u></b>	<b><u>Incumbent</u></b>	<b><u>Date Filled</u></b>	<b><u>New/Replacement</u></b>
Chief Deputy	Register of Deeds	Margo Katterhagen	4/25/11	Replacement
Secretary 1	Register of Deeds	Steffanie Heffner	5/9/11	Replacement
PT Civilian Correction Officer	Sheriff	Marco Valadez	5/23/11	Replacement
PT Civilian Correction Officer	Sheriff	Michael Simpson	5/23/11	Replacement
Child Support Specialist	Child Support	Lynette Prince	6/20/11	Replacement

- The County will be offering general financial planning sessions for employees. In addition, employees may choose to enroll in individual financial coaching sessions.

## County Clerk

### DeeAnn Cook, County Clerk

A state wide recount for the Justice of the Supreme Court race was conducted starting April 27, 2011. The recount took just over 3 days in Barron County. All other counties except Waukesha completed their recount by the deadline of May 9. Waukesha County requested and was granted an extension of the deadline. On May 25, GAB certified the results of the recount. Original totals were Prosser 752,323 Kloppenburg 745,007 and the recount results were Prosser 752,694 Kloppenburg 745,690. In Barron County, no results changed by more

than 1 in any municipality. When it was all said and done, one candidate lost a vote and one gained a vote. Municipal Clerks Karn Moe, Holly Nyhus, Sherrie Siebert and Sandy Tomczak were hired to help with the process. Their expertise was most valuable in the process and they did an excellent job. Also, county employees Vonnie Ritchie, Kathy Afdahl and Judy Holloway were great help. Jennifer took minutes and I serve as a canvass board member along with Donna Miller and Linda Thompson who was a substitute for regular Canvass Board member Bill Smith. Even though recounts are expensive, tedious and quite stressful, everyone learns a lot from them.

We took careful notes on issues that arose and will have a meeting early in June where we will invite all clerks and chief inspectors to go over the issues.

Every spring I send out bid requests for our Barron County Directory to local and distant printing vendors. For many years, the same local vendor was low bid and got the job but this year a different local vendor was the low bid so they got the job. Everything is going along very smoothly and we should have our new directories by the June meeting.

## Register of Deeds

### Joyce Kaseno, Register of Deeds

We welcome two new employees to the Register of Deeds office. They are Margo Katterhagen and Steffanie Heffner. The training is going very well. Thanks also goes to Kathy Holten and Rhonda Sukys for their help during the transitional time.

The new Statewide Vital Records Information System (SVRIS) was implemented in Barron County on March 29, 2011. This allows access to the State Vital Records Office (SVRO) database by the Local Vital Records Offices (LVROs). All birth records must be checked to see if they are available

on the State's database before issuing a birth record. If they are not available through the State, then they can be issued from the local office's records.

We do not have any interns currently working in the office, however we are expecting another one to begin in June.

## Finance Department

### Jodi Busch, Lead Fiscal Coordinator

The audit of our 2010 Financials began May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Staff from LarsonAllen have been onsite and will continue through the first week of June.

Also in May, each of the Budget Workgroups has met independently, with the responsibility of finding cost savings of \$850,000 for the 2012 budget year. Several topics are being discussed and re-

searched with the second of three meetings being scheduled in June. Final recommendations to be presented to the County Board will be completed in July.

## Sheriff's Department

### Chris Fitzgerald, Sheriff

Some staff changes from the Sheriff's Dept. Sgt Sue Avery retired after 28 years and Kelly Devine was promoted to Sgt and Linda Olson was hired full time. Rob Drew, Michael Simpson and Marco Valadez were hired PT in the Jail.

Kathy Thom also retired from the Jail as our Nurse and a hiring process is underway.

Jennifer Tavalacci was hired Full Time in Dispatch and Tasha Draves was hired Part Time.

We made it though another Prom and are almost though all the graduations without any accidents involving youth and alcohol. Remember Parents Who Host Lose the Most. Credit is given to our deputies for there enforcement along with Parents talking to there kids about alcohol before it's too late and to kids for making good healthy choices. Thanks to all that made these season's so safe.

As we go into our summer season of festivals our Alcohol Compliance Team will continue to work local festivals to make sure alcohol is not be given to underage youth. As we continue with our compliance checks it looks like more liquor

stores are not in compliance and more bars are checking ID's. Our goal is to be 100% compliance and continue that for each check.

Our Jail population continues to fluctuate from 135-150 as we look for ways to give inmates tools to keep them out of the system. We continue to run several programs in the jail, find people work and use inmates to work off there sentence by cleaning, mowing the lawn and assisting maintenance when they can.

As always Dont Drink and Drive, Slow Down and Buckle Up.

## Administration / Committees

### Jeff French, County Administrator

#### LCC/Extension, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, meeting:

- Approved county participating as administrator for Silver Lake, Lake Management Grant
- Committee reviewed public notification and staff work timelines for NR135 review and approval process, this information attached as a separate document.
- Approved resolution endorsing the Wisconsin IDEA Partnership.

#### Joint Meeting of LCC/Extension & Zoning Committee June 2<sup>nd</sup>:

- Committee discussed Non-Metallic Mining review and approval procedures and by consent directed staff to complete this process per Wisconsin State Statutes.

#### Property Committee, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, meeting:

- Approved no refund policy for campground reservations
- Increased monthly camping fee from \$375 to \$425 for those County Parks which allow monthly camping, this policy only applies for dates after July 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Reviewed Building Use Policy, first review, a copy of this policy is available on the web site.

#### Property Committee, June 6<sup>th</sup>, meeting:

- Recommended to Executive the expenditure of \$ 45,000 so that Barron County would be a 20% participant, original rail and ballast, with State DOT for the rail lines from Barron to Almena
- Discussed potential for installation of walking trail systems in City of Rice

Lake from West South Street proceeding north on the east side of College drive and circling eastward to Pioneer Avenue. This trail would also connect to the Cedar Side Trail.

- Reviewed information on County vehicle purchase, which indicates that it is cost effective for the County to continue to purchase and own a fleet of vehicles for use by employees versus paying mileage.
- Discussed proposed Building Use Policy as it relates to political organizations and non-partisan politics, Committee consensus was that proposed language was to be narrowly interpreted resulting in no use by political organizations.
- **NOTE\*\*\*** The Property Committee will be holding its' July meeting at the Cedar Lake Town Hall at 11am on July 11<sup>th</sup>, with a tour of Waldo Carlson Park, Twin Lakes boat access and Loch Lomond to occur immediately after the meeting is called to order.

#### Executive:

##### May 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting:

- Any issues discussed were taken up by the full Board at the May County Board meeting.

##### June 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting:

- 2011 First quarter financials and Joint Finance Committee Motion 181 will be reviewed with the entire Board.
- Approved resolution opposing lowering of delinquent tax rate interest from 1% to .5%, this resolution to be acted upon by full Board.
- As part of Rules and Procedures Committee is recommending that Supervisors abide by the same reimburse-

ment policy as County employees.

- Approved out of state travel to Chicago for Kim Gogan, ADRC, for Medicare training and approved out of state travel to Washington, D.C. Chicago for Gloria Vaughn, Aging Dept., for Alzheimer's' Disease Supportive Services Program
- Recommended approval of resolution for Cremation permit fees the result of which is a minimum cremation fee of \$50, resolution to come before full Board for authorization
- Authorized change to March 24<sup>th</sup> motion thereby allowing Administrator use of funds not to exceed \$10,000 for (a) legal fees for accrued vacation and sick leave as a result of BRB, (b) outside consulting engineer for assistance with NR135 Reclamation Plans, (c) outside consulting engineer for assistance with potential road issues. B and C above are in response to potential Frac Sand mining.
- Discussed Frac Sand issues on a number of levels, but, took no action.
- Recommended to full Board a change in the Rules and Procedures allowing the County representative to Day Development (Activities) Board be changed from a non-voting to a voting member. Day Development is agreeable to this change as well
- By consensus, no official action taken, determined that due to the uncertainties of the State's Budget Process and Budget Repair Bills to hold with union negotiations at this time and to abide by the existing union contracts.

# PROCESS FOR RECLAMATION PLAN REVIEW

## *Barron County Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Ordinance*

